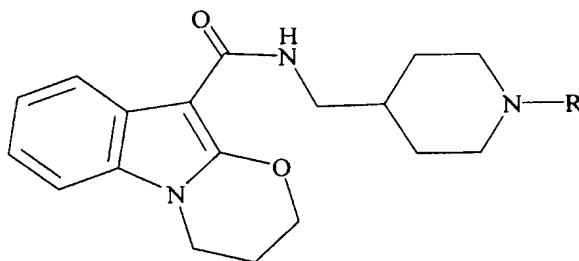


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A method for the treatment of neuropathic pain ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of:
administering to a subject in need thereof a compound of formula I as the active ingredient:



wherein

R is H, a linear or branched alkyl chain having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, or an arylalkyl group;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid-addition salt thereof.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 6, wherein R is H.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 6, wherein R is a linear or branched alkyl chain having 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 6, wherein R is an n-butyl group.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 6, wherein R is an arylalkyl group.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 6, wherein R is an arylalkyl group where the aryl moiety is phenyl.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 6, wherein R is an arylalkyl group where the aryl moiety is naphthyl.

Claim 13 (Cancelled)

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 6, wherein R is an arylalkyl group where the alkyl moiety has from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 6, comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound of formula (I), or acid-addition salt thereof, and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable inert ingredient.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 6, wherein said subject has allodynia due to a primary lesion or dysfunction of the nervous system.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 6, wherein said subject has hyperalgesia due to a primary lesion or dysfunction of the nervous system.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 6, wherein said subject has neuropathic pain associated with diabetes.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 6, wherein said subject has neuropathic pain associated with cancer.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 6, wherein said subject has neuropathic pain associated with immunodeficiency, trauma, ischaemia, multiple sclerosis, sciatic neuralgia, trigeminal neuralgia or a post-herpetic syndrome.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 6, wherein said compound, or acid-addition salt thereof, is administered orally.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 6, wherein said compound, or acid-addition salt thereof, is administered by injection or aerosol.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 6, wherein said compound, or acid-addition salt thereof, is administered transdermally or rectally.

Claim 24 (Cancelled)

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Claim 25 (New): The method of claim 6, wherein said neuropathic pain is not associated with non-neuropathic chronic pain.